

□ 1030

NATION NEEDS AN AIRLINE  
SECURITY BILL

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, this Nation is on a wartime footing and this House should be on a wartime schedule. We left this city last Wednesday. We came back and went into session at 6 o'clock on Tuesday. Yesterday morning, we went into session at 10 o'clock a.m. and finished our work by 5 p.m. We are leaving today by 2 o'clock. We have yet to pass an airline security bill.

The American people who get on airplanes today and tomorrow and next week will do so knowing that at least 95 percent of the luggage that is placed in the belly of that airplane will not be screened for explosives. How can we tell the American people to go back to life as normal? How can we encourage people to get on our airplanes and fly as long as this House is negligent and refuses to bring an airline security bill to this floor for honest, open debate and a vote? All we are asking for is the right to have a vote on this airline security bill.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 70, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

## FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 70) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 70

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 107-44 is further amended by striking the date specified in section 107(c) and inserting in lieu thereof "November 16, 2001".*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, October 24, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before the House this morning is H.J. Res. 70. Its purpose is to extend the current continuing resolution through November 16. We had hoped, Mr. Speaker, that this would not be necessary, but as all of our colleagues know, the House was really not able to function for nearly a week because of the anthrax contamination that was located in some of our areas. In addition to that, some of the House office buildings were closed and we were not able to actually recover the information, the papers and the materials that we needed to carry on some of our appropriations work.

I might say, Mr. Speaker, we actually offered to put on some of those moon suits that the decontaminators were wearing so that we could actually get into the building and recover the files and the information we needed, but, of course, that suggestion was rejected and so we have had a delay. That is the reason why we come to the floor with another continuing resolution, but absent any further delays over which we have no control, we expect to complete our appropriations business by the end of this continuing resolution.

The terms and conditions of the previous CRs remain in effect. All ongoing activities will be continued at current rates under the same terms and conditions as fiscal year 2001. Last week, Mr. Speaker, we passed two conference reports, Interior and Military Construction. Yesterday, the committee reported out the Defense appropriations bill. We expect to file that bill sometime early next week.

In addition to the CR today, we hope to be appointing conferees on the Foreign Operations bill. We will meet in conference on the Treasury-Postal bill this afternoon and have that conference report on the floor next week. Next week, we also hope to go to conference on the Legislative Branch, the VA-HUD, and the Energy and Water appropriations bills. We also expect to appoint conferees on Agriculture which the Senate hopes to complete today, and also Transportation which they passed in August but we have not yet received a request to go to conference.

Next week, we also plan to put together a package to allocate the funding provided in the emergency supplemental bill to address military, domestic security, humanitarian assistance and recovery requirements related to the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I would explain that in the \$40 billion supplemental that we enacted immediately after the attacks on September 11, \$10 billion of that had no strings attached, the President was able to use it quickly in any legal way that he chose. The second \$10 billion, the President is able to use, after he notifies the Appropriations Committees of the House and the Senate 15 days prior to releasing the funds. The

last \$20 billion, according to the law, had to go through the regular appropriations process.

Actually, we just received information on the \$20 billion from the White House on Wednesday afternoon last week as this building was being evacuated, and so we have not really had an opportunity to review what they have proposed relative to the \$20 billion. But we will do that very quickly now and hopefully will include it as part of the Defense appropriations bill when it comes to the floor.

We have a lot of work to do, and I appreciate the bipartisan cooperation and spirit that we have had here in the House all of this year and especially since the September 11 terrorist attacks. This Congress has come together. As one Member, it makes me extremely proud of my colleagues in the way that they have responded and joined with the President to assure the perpetrators of that tragedy, that terrible attack, are going to be punished and that we are going to do everything to disrupt their ability to ever do something like that to the United States again.

Mr. Speaker, I apologize for the hoarseness that overcame me there for a few seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 minutes.

I would simply observe for the gentleman from Florida that many of my constituents would say that the Republic has never yet been harmed when a Member of Congress has been hoarse, but let me simply make some points about the issue at hand.

Mr. Speaker, this body is an odd mixture of being both a legislative institution and a political institution. Sometimes I believe the fact that the cameras have come into this place have created all kinds of incentives for this place to be much more a political institution than it is a legislative institution, and I regret that.

I also think that we have another problem in the House. Woodrow Wilson wrote in his famous book a long time ago that Congress did its work in committee, and in my view Congress does its best work in committee. And I think there is always a tension in a legislative and political body between efforts of the two parties to get their messages out and to get their will forced through the House, and, on the other hand, the efforts of the committees of the House to do the work of the House on behalf of every Member and on behalf of the country. We have a committee system because none of us can be an expert on everything, and we are, through the committee system, given the opportunity to specialize and develop knowledge in discrete areas of government.

I think this is one of those times when the committee system needs to be allowed to work on behalf of the House rather than being frustrated by